



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Color Country District Office

Cedar City Field Office

176 East DL Sargent Drive

Cedar City, UT 84721

Telephone (435) 865-3000

www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city.html



In Reply Refer To:
4720 (UTC010)

August 7, 2012

Dear Reader:

The Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Frisco Wild Horse Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and Gather Plan (EA) DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2012-0018-EA is available for review and comment on-line at <http://www.ut.blm.gov/> or at <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/>. Hard copies are available from the Cedar City Field Office at the above address.

This document is tiered to the Pinyon Management Framework Plan (MFP; 1983). If a determination is made that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in "significant environmental impacts" a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be prepared to document that determination and a Decision Record issued providing the rationale for approving the chosen alternative.

The Frisco HMA is approximately 60,367 acres and is located, approximately 15 miles northwest of Milford, Utah. Of the 60,367 acres in the HMA approximately 48,852 of these are public land acres, 5,745 of these acres are state and 5,770 acres are private land acres. The HMA ranges from 5,600 in the valleys to 9,500 feet in elevation at the top of Frisco Peak.

This EA has been prepared to analyze the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Cedar City Field Office proposal to implement a wild horse Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) with a management strategy which would include increasing the lower Appropriate Management Level (AML), a number of population control methods, and objectives to improve water sources. The proposal also includes a gather/removal plan to remove excess wild horses and apply fertility control two to four times over a six to ten year period.

The current AML for the Frisco HMA is 12-60 wild horses. The AML for the Frisco HMA was set in the Pinyon Management Framework Plan (PMFP) (1983) which allows for, "the removal of horses as required to maintain horse numbers at or below 1982 inventory levels, but not less than 1971 levels." The MFP also allocated forage for wild horses, livestock, and wildlife.

Wild horse populations above AML compete for forage, water, and cover allocated to wildlife and livestock. High populations of wild horses impact riparian areas with increased trailing, vegetative use, and trampling. Wild horses will drive away livestock and native ungulates from watering and feeding areas (Miller 1981).

In order to meet local and national wild horse program goals, the objectives would be to:

- slow population growth to maximize the time between gathers to remove excess horses;
- reduce the number of wild horses being placed in short-term holding or long-term pastures;
- maintain wild horse populations within AMLs;
- remove wild horses that occupy areas outside the Frisco HMA boundary; and

- maintain a thriving, natural ecological balance and multiple use relationship on public lands in the Frisco HMA.

Comments on the Preliminary EA for the Frisco Wild Horse Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and Gather Plan (EA) DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2012-0018-EA will be accepted for 30 days until September 5, 2012. Interested individuals should mail written comments to the BLM Cedar City Field Office, 176 E. DL Sargent Drive, Cedar City, Utah 84721 Attn: Cedar City Field Office Manager or send email to: [blm ut Frisco HMAP@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_Frisco_HMAP@blm.gov). Any other comments will not be accepted. Comments need to be post marked or emailed to blm ut Frisco HMAP@blm.gov no later than September 5, 2012. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Chad Hunter, BLM Rangeland Management/Wild Horse Specialist, at (435) 865-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth R. Burghard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" and the last name "Burghard" clearly legible.

Elizabeth Burghard
Cedar City Field Office Manager